

REMARKS

In this application, claims 1-55 are pending. The pending communication from the PTO makes restriction requirements, and for at least the reasons detailed below, Examiner Mendoza is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these requirements.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. Examiner Mendoza indicated his opinion that the present application includes claims directed to two inventions, (I) claims 1-39 drawn to a device, classified in class 606, subclass 232, and (II) claims 40-55 drawn to a method, classified in class 128, subclass 898. This review of the pending PTO communication is not intended as an admission of any sort by Applicants as to the subject matter of any claim. The Examiner requested Applicant to elect between these asserted inventions.

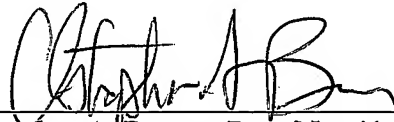
It is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn, principally because the alleged inventions are sufficiently related such that the search and examination of these two alleged inventions together would not impose a serious or undue burden on Examiner Mendoza. In other words, the similarities among the alleged inventions are such that they can be efficiently considered together when the claims are searched and examined. Applicant respectfully asserts that the same art categories would be consulted for each alleged invention. To that end, it is believed that any practical search strategy for one alleged invention would find references pertinent to all alleged inventions.

So as to give a complete response for the sake of efficiency, the alleged invention of claims 1-39 drawn to a device is provisionally elected, **with traverse**. Applicants do not concede the propriety of the Examiner's request, and do not intend to limit in any way the scope of the claims with the statements or provisional election herein. Specifically, the claims in this

application should be given the full scope permitted by their language. No amendments have been made to the claims, and no new matter has been added.

In conclusion, the provisional election of claims 1-39 as noted above is made with traverse, and Examiner Mendoza is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this restriction requirement. Additionally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any questions regarding this election. A new Office Action toward a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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